

Water Use Standards Used By DNRC

In-house domestic use – 1 acre foot per year

Lawn and garden – 2.5 acre feet per acre per year

Stock – 0.017 acre foot per animal unit per year

Under the current exemption of 35 gpm up to 10 acre-feet per year, a person could provide water to three houses, irrigate three-quarters of an acre of lawn and garden, and water 300 cows.

Or, could provide water to three houses, each with three-quarters of an acre of lawn and garden (for a total of 1.5 acres) and 15 horses.

Or, could provide water to one house, irrigate 3 acres, and water 80 cows.

Or, could water 588 cows.

Or, could provide water to any other combination of uses as long as the flow rate does not exceed 35 gpm and the volume does not exceed 10 acre feet per year.

Prepared by Holly Franz
For PPL Montana, LLC
Regarding HB 433

Exempt Wells in Nearby States

Idaho

- A well, up to 9 gpm, for homes, organization camps, public campgrounds, livestock, and the irrigation of up to one-half acre of land. This exemption does not apply to multiple ownership subdivisions, mobile home parks, or commercial or business establishments.
- A well, up to 18 gpm and 2.8 acre feet per year, for any other use.

Colorado:

- One well, up to 15 gpm, for ordinary household uses in one single family dwelling and does not allow for outside water or livestock growing. This exemption only applies to lots created prior to June 1, 1972.
- Lots 35 acres or more may have one well, up to 15 gpm, for ordinary household uses in up to three single family dwellings, irrigate one acres or less of lawn and garden, and provide water for the owner's domestic animals and livestock. This exemption is only allows in limited areas where the surface drainage system in not over-appropriated.
- One well for one-third acre foot of water per year for commercial uses by small businesses located on lots created prior to June 1, 1972.

Wyoming:

- A well, up to 25 gallons per minute, for stock, household use, and the water of one acre of lawn and garden.

North Dakota:

- A well, up to 12.5 acre feet per year, for any purpose.

Utah:

- No exemption.

Washington:

- A well, with no gallon per day limit, for watering livestock.
- A well for watering one-half acre of lawn and garden.
- A well, up to 3.5 gpm, for a single home or groups of home.
- A well, up to 3.5 gpm, for industrial purposes.
- One groundwater exemption is allowed for any one project regardless of its size. All wells for a given project apply toward the limit of the exemption.

Prepared by Holly Franz
For PPL Montana, LLC
Regarding HB 433